

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

July 6, 2006

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator of Enforcement, Office of Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590


06V-240
(9 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Attached is DaimlerChrysler Corporation's (DCC's) Defect Information Report, complying with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, which contains details of a potential safety related defect in a small number of 2006 model year Dodge Durango vehicles. The left rear suspension watts link may have been damaged during vehicle assembly and could fail. A failed watts link could adversely affect vehicle handling and cause a crash without warning.

DCC will conduct a voluntary safety recall to replace the left rear suspension watts link on the affected vehicle population.

Sincerely,


for Stephan J. Speth

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall F30
Dealer and Owner Notification letters for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall F30

cc: K.C. DeMeter, NHTSA
Division of Occupational Safety & Health
California Department of Industrial Relations

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F30

Page 1

Submission date: July 6, 2006

Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Vehicle Volume
Dodge	Durango	2006	05/15/2006 – 05/16/2006	230

Estimated percentage containing defect: 6%

The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
6F169342	6F192144

(VIN last eight characters) – 6 = 2006 model year; F = Newark Assembly Plant, Newark, Delaware; and last six digits = sequential number.

DaimlerChrysler Corporation cautions that the above range represents only the lowest and highest VIN sequential numbers included in the recall. This range cannot be used to determine conclusively that a vehicle is involved in the recall because most vehicles with a VIN within the range are not affected by the recall.

Description of defect:

The left rear suspension watts link may have been damaged during vehicle assembly and could fail. A failed watts link could adversely affect vehicle handling and cause a crash without warning.

The following chronology of principal events occurred during May and June of 2006 and led to the determination of a defect:

- On May 17, 2006, it was observed at the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Newark Assembly Plant (NAP) that the left rear watts links was getting bent and/or scraped. The scrape could penetrate the protective coating and exposed bare metal.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F30

Page 2

- Investigation determined that one of the assembly line conveyor drive motors had malfunctioned on May 15, 2006. This disturbed the assembly line synchronization, creating contact between the axle tube conveyor nest detail and the left rear watts link.
- NAP inspected 175 vehicles that were still within plant control and found 10 with damage. 230 vehicles built during the suspect time period had already been shipped.
- Five damaged parts were returned from NAP for testing and analysis. It was subsequently determined that the damaged parts would not achieve the compression/tension testing cycle requirements.
- There are no reports of this issue occurring on any of the small number of vehicles in the field, and thus no known accidents, injuries or property damage.
- This data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on June 27, 2006 who decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall to repair the affected vehicles.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

DaimlerChrysler Corporation (DCC) will replace the left rear suspension watts link on the affected vehicle population. Due to the limited scope of vehicles in the field and the lack of any known accidents, injuries or property damage, DCC has concluded that the three day dealer notification rule does not apply. DCC expects to initiate national notification to dealers the week of July 10, 2006 and to owners the week of July 17, 2006.

DCC has a longstanding policy and practice of reimbursing owners who have incurred the cost of repairing a problem that subsequently becomes the subject of a field action. To ensure consistency, DCC, as part of the owner letter, will request that customers send original receipt and/or other adequate proof of payment to the company for confirmation of the expense.

July 2006

Dealer Service Instructions for:

Safety Recall F30

Rear Suspension Watts Link

Models

2006 (HB) Dodge Durango

NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles built from May 15, 2006 through May 16, 2006 (MDH 051514 through 051613).

IMPORTANT: *Many of the vehicles within the above build period have already been inspected or repaired and, therefore, have been excluded from this recall.*

IMPORTANT: Some of the involved vehicles may be in dealer new vehicle inventory. Federal law requires you to complete this recall service on these vehicles before retail delivery. Dealers should also consider this requirement to apply to used vehicle inventory and should perform this recall on vehicles in for service. Involved vehicles can be determined by using the VIP inquiry process.

Subject

The left rear suspension watts link on about 200 of the above vehicles may have been damaged during vehicle assembly and could fail. A failed watts link could adversely affect vehicle handling and cause a crash without warning.

Repair

The left rear suspension watts link must be replaced.

Parts Information**Watts Link**

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
CAA0F300	Left Rear Suspension Watts Link

Each dealer to whom vehicles in the recall were assigned will receive enough Watts Links to service 100% of those vehicles.

Service Procedure

1. Raise the vehicle on an appropriate hoist.
2. Remove the upper nut and bolt to the left (driver) side watts link at the frame (Figure 1).
3. Remove the lower nut to the left side watts link at the bell crank (Figure 1).
4. Remove and discard the original left side watts link.

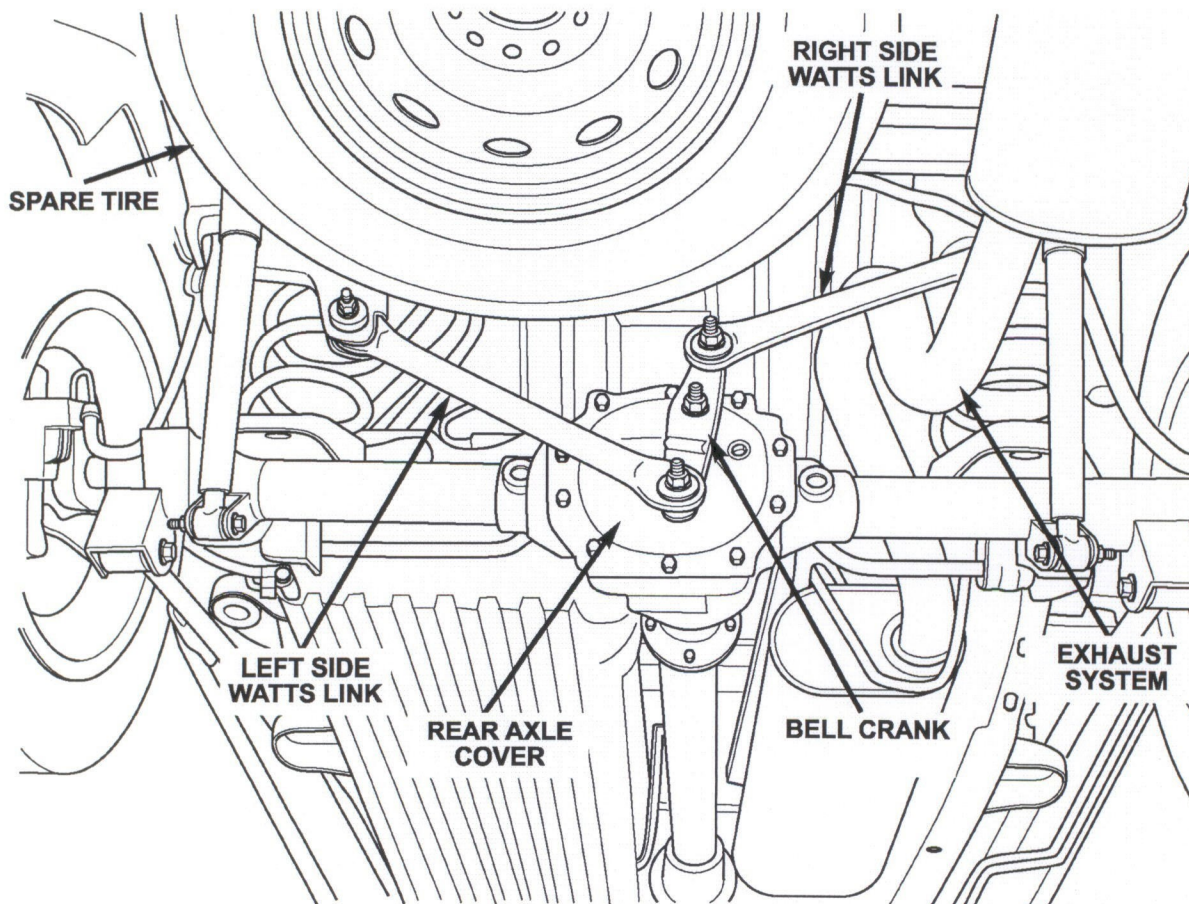


Figure 1

Service Procedure (Continued)

5. Install the left side watts link end to the bell crank stud and install the retaining nut (Figure 2).

CAUTION: The flange on the watts link bushing must face towards the bell crank (Figure 2).

6. Install the left side watts link nut and bolt at the frame (Figure 1).

CAUTION: The bolt must be installed so the retaining nut is on the rearward side of the frame bracket.

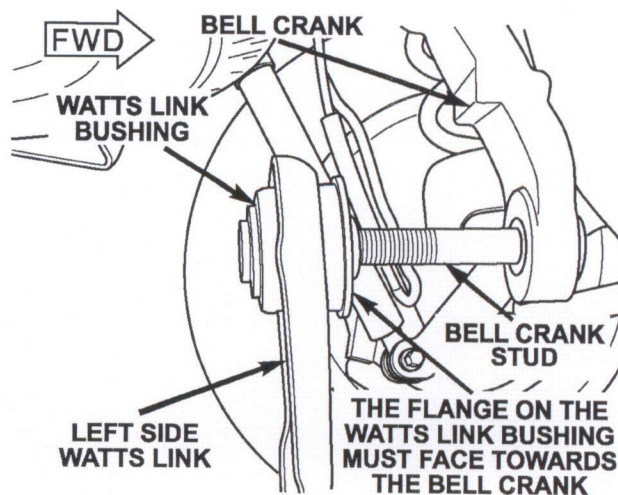


Figure 2

7. Tighten the left side upper watts link nut and bolt at the frame to 125 ft. lbs. (169 N·m).
8. Tighten the left side lower watts link retaining nut at the bell crank to 80 ft. lbs. (108 N·m).
9. Lower the vehicle from the hoist.

Completion Reporting and Reimbursement

Claims for vehicles that have been serviced must be submitted on the DealerCONNECT Claim Entry Screen located on the Service tab. Claims submitted will be used by DaimlerChrysler to record recall service completions and provide dealer payments.

Use the following labor operation number and time allowance:

	<u>Labor Operation Number</u>	<u>Time Allowance</u>
Replace rear suspension left side watts link	02-F3-01-82	0.2 hours

Add the cost of the recall part plus applicable dealer allowance to your claim.

NOTE: See the Warranty Administration Manual, Recall Claim Processing Section, for complete recall claim processing instructions.

Dealer Notification

All dealers will receive a copy of this dealer recall notification letter by mail. Two additional copies will be sent through the DCMMS. To view this notification on DealerCONNECT, select “Global Recall System” on the Service tab, then click on the description of this notification.

Owner Notification and Service Scheduling

All involved vehicle owners known to DaimlerChrysler are being notified of the service requirement by first class mail. They are requested to schedule appointments for this service with their dealers. A generic copy of the owner letter is attached.

Enclosed with each owner letter is an Owner Notification postcard to allow owners to update our records if applicable.

Vehicle Lists, Global Recall System, VIP and Dealer Follow Up

All involved vehicles have been entered into the DealerCONNECT Global Recall System (GRS) and Vehicle Information Plus (VIP) for dealer inquiry as needed.

GRS provides involved dealers with an updated VIN list of their incomplete vehicles. The owner’s name, address and phone number are listed if known. Completed vehicles are removed from GRS within several days of repair claim submission.

To use this system, click on the “**Service**” tab and then click on “**Global Recall System.**” Your dealer’s VIN list for each recall displayed can be sorted by: those vehicles that were unsold at recall launch, those with a phone number, city, zip code, or VIN sequence.

Dealers must perform this repair on all unsold vehicles before retail delivery. Dealers should also use the VIN list to follow up with all owners to schedule appointments for this repair.

Recall VIN lists may contain confidential, restricted owner name and address information that was obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles of various states. Use of this information is permitted for this recall only and is strictly prohibited from all other use.

Additional Information

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing this action, please contact your Service and Parts District Manager.

Customer Services Field Operations
DaimlerChrysler Corporation

SAFETY RECALL F30 – REAR SUSPENSION LINK

Dear: (Name)

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. DaimlerChrysler Corporation has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in some **2006 model year Dodge Durango vehicles.**

The problem is... **The left rear suspension link on your vehicle (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) may have been damaged during vehicle assembly and could fail. A failed link could adversely affect vehicle handling and cause a crash without warning.**

What your dealer will do... **DaimlerChrysler will repair your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your dealer will replace the left rear suspension link on your vehicle. The work will take about ½ hour to complete. However, additional time may be necessary depending on how dealer appointments are scheduled and processed.**

What you must do to ensure your safety... **Simply contact your dealer right away to schedule a service appointment. Ask the dealer to hold the parts for your vehicle or to order them before your appointment. Remember to bring this letter with you to your dealer.**

If you need help... **If you have questions or concerns which your dealer is unable to resolve, please contact DaimlerChrysler at 1-800-853-1403.**

Please help us update our records, by filling out the enclosed prepaid postcard, if any of the conditions listed on the card apply to you or your vehicle. Be sure to print the last eight (8) characters of the VIN (VVVVVVVV) and notification code F30 on the postcard.

If you have already experienced this condition and have paid to have it repaired, you may send your original receipts and/or other adequate proof of payment to the following address for reimbursement: DaimlerChrysler P.O. Box 4639 Oak Ridge, TN 37831, Attention: Reimbursement.

If your dealer fails or is unable to remedy this defect without charge and within a reasonable time, you may submit a written complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We're sorry for any inconvenience, but we are sincerely concerned about your safety. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Customer Services Field Operations
DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Notification Code F30

Note to lessors receiving this recall: Federal regulation requires that you forward this recall notice to the lessee within 10 days.